

2010

Old Sitka State Historical Park Preservation Plan



Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, in coordination with the National Park Service, manages the **Preserve America** program—a federal initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy cultural and natural heritage resources. In 2008, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation awarded a Preserve America grant to the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) to create preservation plans for those units of the Alaska State Park system designated as National Historic Landmarks. Those units include Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park in Kodiak, and Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park, Baranof Castle Hill State Historic Site, and Old Sitka State Historical Park—all located in Sitka.

Established as a national historic landmark in 1962 and a state historical park in 1968, Old Sitka was the site of the first Russian fort in the Alexander Archipelago, the site of an important battle between the Tlingit and the Russians and Aleuts, and was significant for its association with European settlement of northwestern North America.

The ***Old Sitka State Historical Park Preservation Plan*** provides a framework for decisions pertaining to cultural resource protection, interpretive program development, and stewardship of the park. The preservation planning process involved inventorying resources, compiling research, and discussing and sharing ideas with park managers, industry professionals, and interested public during public meetings and comment periods.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

WHY DO WE NEED A PRESERVATION PLAN?

The Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP) Preservation Plan supports the division's goal to "sustain Alaska's cultural, ecological, scenic and scientific assets through proactive stewardship pursuant to the division's parks and programs," as outlined in the division's ten year strategic plan¹. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's *Preserve America* program awarded a planning grant to the Office of History and Archaeology because preservation plans are valuable tools for efforts aimed at preserving and enhancing historical, cultural, archaeological, and anthropological values, and promoting the enjoyment and stewardship of heritage resources. ***Old Sitka State Historical Park Preservation Plan*** is one of four preservation plans developed for the National Historic Landmarks managed by the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (ADPOR).

WHAT IS A PRESERVATION PLAN SUPPOSED TO DO?

The preservation plan provides guidelines to assist park staff in reaching their short- and long-term objectives for the preservation and enhancement of cultural and historical resources and in making informed decisions regarding the day-to-day management of these resources. The document is intended to be a dynamic tool used to enhance and preserve the park's historical, cultural, archaeological, and anthropological values, to promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the park resources, to support local recreation and tourism, and to encourage a variety of recreational and educational opportunities in the park for visitors of varying abilities. This preservation plan provides guidelines rather than hard and fast rules. The plan supports, but does not replace, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Alaska Historic Preservation Act, or National Environmental Policy Act.

WHAT IS A STATE HISTORICAL PARK?

The "Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework" identifies designations for different types of parks based on their primary values to the public. Old Sitka is a *state historical park* defined as "an area containing an assemblage of significant historical, cultural, archaeological, or anthropological resources from representative eras of Alaska's history or prehistory. The dominant management objective of a historic park is to preserve and interpret historic resources for Alaskans and visitors to the state."²

PLAN ROAD MAP

The plan has four principal components—goals and objectives, a brief historical and cultural background of the park, current park conditions, and recommended preservation and interpretation strategies for achieving the outlined goals. In addition, useful documents such as a glossary for preservation-specific language, archaeological monitoring forms, and treatment standards are attached as appendices.

¹ Alaska Div. of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, *Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation: Ten Year Strategic Plan 2007-2017*. (Alaska Div. of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, 2007), 22-25.

² Park Planning Section of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, *Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework*. (Alaska Div. of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, 1982), 8.

PUBLIC PROCESS

A public scoping meeting was held August 10, 2009, in Sitka to identify interpretive themes, preservation priorities, and concerns related to the use of Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP). On August 12, 2009, division staff visited the park to identify all historic features, identify preservation issues, inventory existing interpretive programs, outline interpretive possibilities, and evaluate current uses. Public comments were accepted through September of 2009 for scoping. After the public comment period ended, staff compiled additional information, evaluated alternatives, and developed priorities. A draft plan was prepared and distributed for public review.

CHAPTER 2: PLAN VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

OLD SITKA STATE HISTORICAL PARK PRESERVATION PLAN VISION

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation envisions the Old Sitka State Historical Park Preservation Plan as a tool used to enhance and preserve the park's historical cultural, archaeological, and anthropological values, to promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the park resources, to support local recreation and tourism, and to encourage a variety of recreational and educational opportunities in the park for visitors of varying abilities.

The vision for Old Sitka SHP Preservation Plan includes the following:

- Enhance and preserve the historical, cultural, archaeological or anthropological values for which the park was established
- Promote the enjoyment and stewardship of the park resources
- Support local recreation and tourism through education and interpretation
- Afford a variety of recreational and educational opportunities for park visitors of varying abilities without compromising the overall purpose of the park

PRESERVATION GOALS

The goals and strategies outlined below are intended to facilitate the management of Old Sitka SHP while protecting and enhancing the park's heritage. Specific strategies to accomplish the overarching preservation goals have also been developed.

- Instill in park visitors a sense of stewardship for historic resources
- Develop an interpretive program that highlights the story of the 1802 battle and brings the importance of this site and what occurred here to the visitor's attention
- Instill in park visitors a sense of reverence for what occurred at the site and for those who lost their lives during this early conflict

STRATEGIES

INSPIRING STEWARDSHIP

- Identify partners, research possibilities, and education opportunities that will help the division preserve and interpret Old Sitka SHP
- Maintain the division's leadership role in historic preservation, natural resource conservation, and interpretive programming in Alaska by advocating for the resources, protecting and interpreting significant features and stories, and actively managing the historic and cultural resources

DEVELOPING INTERPRETATION

- Develop interpretive programming that reflects the multi-faceted character of the site's story by recognizing all parties involved in the 1802 battle and telling all sides of the story to the greatest extent possible

INSTILLING REVERENCE

- Impart in visitors a reverence for the past through effective site planning and interpretive programming

CHAPTER 3: HISTORY AND CULTURE

RUSSIAN INFLUENCES AND THE BATTLE OF 1802

The Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP) marks the former location of the Russian fort, Redoubt St. Archangel Michael, which was the first foothold established by the Shelikof-Golikov Company (later known as the Russian American Company) in the Alexander Archipelago. Alexander Baranof established the fort in July of 1799 after negotiations with the local *Kiks.ádi* Tlingit. The redoubt was built at *Gajaa Héen*, a promontory south of Starrigavan Creek, which was used by the *Kiks.ádi* Tlingit for drying fish.

The Russians first erected a large storage shed, then a small bath house that Baranof later made his residence. Next, the Russians built a two-story barracks, with watchtowers in two corners. In the spring of 1800, Baranof left the redoubt for Kodiak, leaving V. G. Medvednikof in charge. By the summer of 1800, a large eight-cornered *kashim* (men's house) for the Aleut hunters, temporary blacksmith shop, cook house, warehouse, cattle barn, and managers' residence had been completed, and work on the stockade had begun. Over the course of the next two years, the Russians also completed other buildings and started building a ship.³

Initial relations between the Tlingit and Russians appear to have been good, but were strained by the time Baranof left for Kodiak. The Tlingit were unhappy with Russians arresting Tlingit and holding them in irons, incidents of Russian desecration and robbing of Tlingit graves, and the Russian and Aleut exploitation of Tlingit hunting grounds.⁴ Tensions were also raised by American traders and Tlingit from north and south of Sitka Sound, who advised the annihilation of the Russian fort.⁵

By mid June 1802, conditions were right for a Tlingit attack on the Russian fort. Most of the Aleut men were off hunting, leaving just 21 Russians and a few Aleuts to maintain and guard the settlement. As many as 600 Tlingit warriors attacked the redoubt on June 18, killing all the Russian and Aleut men in the fort and burning the redoubt to the ground.

Baranof returned from Kodiak with a large force in 1804. After defeating the Tlingit at the mouth of Indian River, Baranof reestablished his redoubt as New Archangel, centered on the promontory now known as Castle Hill in downtown Sitka.

CUTTING PACKING COMPANY

The next intensive use of the Old Sitka area began in 1878 when the Cutting Packing Company of San Francisco erected a salmon packing cannery there. The cannery machinery was removed in 1882, and

³ Robert Betts, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Old Sitka, (National Park Service, 2004), 6.

⁴ `Nora Marks Dauenhauer and Richard Dauenhauer, The Battles of Sitka, 1802 and 1804, from Tlingit, Russian, and Other Points of View, in *Russia in North America*, Richard A. Pierce, ed.,(Kingston, Ontario: Limestone Press, 1990), 7-8.

⁵ P.A. Tikhmenev, *A History of the Russian American Company, Vol. 2, Documents*, Richard A. Pierce and A. S. Donnelly, eds.(Kingston, Ontario: Limestone Press, 1979), 180-181.

taken to the Kasilof River on the Kenai Peninsula. The next year, personnel from Sheldon Jackson College salvaged the remaining lumber from the cannery and used it to build the college's first structure.⁶

TWENTIETH CENTURY SITE MEMORIALS AND EXCAVATION

This historic site and the surrounding region were included in the Tongass National Forest in February 1907. By 1910, the site was occupied by five "Indian smokehouses";⁷ by the mid 1930s, only one smokehouse and some gardens remained. In 1914, a Russian Orthodox priest, the Rev. Sergius George Kostrometinoff, erected a cross on site and obtained a Special Use Permit from the Tongass National Forest to protect an acre of land for what he believed were the graves of the Russians and Aleut killed there in 1802.

In the mid 1930s, the Forest Service decided to excavate the former Russian redoubt to determine the extent and location of the redoubt structures. The Emergency Conservation Works funded the excavations conducted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC recovered over a thousand artifacts from the excavations, most of Russian origin.⁸ Post holes and artifact patterning suggested possible locations for the Russian buildings and stockade. By far the most significant artifact discovered was the bronze "Possession Plate," one of thirty given to the Shelikof- Golikov Company by the Russian Government to bury in newly claimed territories. This possession plate remains the only numbered Russian Possession Plate to have been recovered.⁹ Today the plate is housed at the Sitka National Historical Park.

SITE SIGNIFICANCE AND RECENT MODIFICATIONS

The Navy began developing the site in 1942 for use as a barracks area and storage depot, resulting in extensive grading and filling near the shoreline. In 1952, the Navy transferred the site to the Bureau of Land Management. The State of Alaska began administering the property in 1962. During the same year, the Secretary of the Interior declared Old Sitka a National Historic Landmark. The State of Alaska extended the Sitka Highway (now Halibut Point Road) in 1963, providing access to the site. In 1966, the State of Alaska developed the site as a historic park and wayside. Ownership of the National Historic Landmark and about 50 acres surrounding it was officially transferred to ADPORA in 1968. Modifications to the site included grading, landscaping, and construction of a gravel parking lot, as well as installation of interpretive signs and a flag pole. Improvements in the mid 1980s included upgrading the interpretive signs and buildings. The most recent modifications to the National Historic Landmark came in 1991 when the gravel parking lot was paved.¹⁰

⁶ William S. Hanable, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Old Sitka, (National Park Service, 1975), 2.

⁷ Anthony W. Barnett and Paul J. F. Schumacher, *An Analysis of the Archaeological Excavations by the U.S. Forest Service at Old Sitka*. (National Park Service, 1967), 7.

⁸ Ibid., 8, 29.

⁹ Ibid., 23.

¹⁰ Robert Betts, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Old Sitka, (National Park Service, 2004), 13.

CHAPTER 4: EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

1. LAND USE ZONES

No land use zones currently exist at Old Sitka SHP. Additionally, no preservation zones exist at Old Sitka SHP. However, development must be associated with public access, safety, and interpretation, and must not interfere with the characteristics that make the area a National Historic Landmark.

2. RESEARCH

The primary research conducted at Old Sitka is related to archaeological excavations that occurred in the 1930s. The excavations, unfortunately conducted with less control or recordation than is standard for today, resulted in a large collection of artifacts and no written site report. The National Park Service attempted to fill this void with an analysis and summary of the collection in the 1960s.¹¹

State Archaeological Survey personnel conducted an archaeological survey in 1978 at Old Sitka.¹² The survey included the examination of beaches, other surface exposures, and 15 subsurface tests. No additional cultural materials were encountered. Researchers have borrowed some of the Old Sitka collections, but no additional written reports have been produced.

3. PARTNERSHIPS

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation currently has informal partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game regarding Old Sitka SHP, either because of shared history or adjacent properties. The artifacts excavated by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1930s are currently housed at the National Park Service curation facilities at Sitka National Historical Park. The U.S. Forest Service, who previously owned the park and who conducted the early archaeological excavations, manages the land directly adjacent to Old Sitka SHP on the northern park boundary, and provides a northern terminus for the Forest and Muskeg Trail. Without permits or formal approval, Forest Service archaeologists periodically monitor Starrigavan Creek for archaeological remains and currently have a fish weir stake from park land in their warehouse. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game provided construction funding for the boat launch on the south side of the park.

4. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is currently conducted as needed by state park staff responsible for all park units in the Sitka area. The site caretaker, who resides seasonally at the Salmon House, actively maintains the lawn of Old

¹¹ Anthony W. Barnett and Paul J.F. Schumacher, *An Analysis of the Archaeological Excavations by the U.S. Forest Service at Old Sitka*. (National Park Service, 1967).

¹² Douglas Reger, "Archaeological Survey: Old Sitka". Letter Report from to William S. Hanable, February 15, 1979.

Sitka National Historic Landmark. Trees and salmonberry bushes impact the viewshed between the battlefield site and the water and separate the lawn and the tidelands.

5. LAND USE AND FACILITIES

Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP) consists of 51.3 acres, 3.16 acres of which are the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark. The park is used for historic interpretation, day use recreation, and boat launching. The sections of the park most significant for their cultural values are the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark and Starrigavan Creek. Some cultural assets in these areas include the Salmon House, potential archaeological resources, battlefield, and viewsheds to the mountains and the water. A large parking area consumes roughly 25% of the National Historic Landmark severely compromising the site's integrity. Oftentimes, this feature is used to question the integrity and National Historic Landmark status of Old Sitka.

Structural remains of Redoubt St. Michael are long gone, but the importance of the site is captured in the location, setting, views, feeling of reverence, and information the site contained currently housed at the Sitka National Historical Park. Picnic areas are scattered throughout the National Historic Landmark and near the beach. A campfire ring is situated near the water by the Salmon House. Access to the beach from Old Sitka is limited and does not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The Salmon House—a historic building in its own right, but a non-contributing component of Old Sitka National Historic Landmark—is located between the battlefield site and the boat launch. The Salmon House is currently occupied by the Old Sitka caretaker. The primary issues at the house are pests (rodents, bugs, and bears) control, moisture penetration, and drainage. Moisture is causing rot of the siding and porch. The paint layer is not sound and needs immediate attention to protect the siding. The gutters are warped, filled with debris, and overall performing poorly. The storage shed located in the rear of the Salmon House is positioned so water is directed towards the Salmon House in a narrow area with inadequate air circulation to speed up drying times. The bathroom addition is clad in T1-11 with a flat roof, and is not appropriately designed as an addition.

Areas outside the main cultural area include the boat launch, overflow parking and natural area. The natural area is home to one trail developed in cooperation with the United States Forest Service. The boat launch and overflow parking area are heavily used by visitors. Access to the historical portion of the park is not clearly identified. In many regards, the historical portion of the park and the natural area are operated as two distinct areas rather than one comprehensive unit. A fee station and restrooms are located near the boat launch.

6. INTERPRETATION

The following paragraphs provide a summary of current personal and non-personal interpretation in and about the park. **Personal interpretation** occurs when one person is interpreting to another, such as during a guided tour. **Non-personal interpretation** occurs when the person interpreting is removed and replaced with another type of media, such as an interpretive display, audio tour, or self-guided brochure.

PERSONAL INTERPRETATION

SITKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Sitka Historical Museum, located in Centennial Hall, provides visitors with information and stories about a variety of displays and artifacts about Sitka's Tlingit, Russian, and American history. The museum's staff uses a detailed diorama of Russian Sitka circa 1867 to verbally interpret the story of:

- the early struggles between the Tlingit and invading Russians, including the battles of 1802 and 1804
- everyday life in Russian Sitka for the different cultural groups that lived there, including Tlingit, Europeans, Aleut, and others

SITKA TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

The Sitka Tribal Enterprises' *Rainforest Hike and Coach Tour* takes visitors on a seven-mile drive along the shoreline to the National Historic Landmark at Old Sitka SHP during which the guide interprets Sitka's history and local landmarks. After this beautiful drive, visitors hike through a variety of ecological habitats on the Starrigavan Muskeg Trail.

While Old Sitka is the stop at the end of the coach part of this tour, the Sitka Tribal Enterprises tour guides do not feel that their people's story is properly told in the existing interpretive panels of this site. What the tour guides present is often in stark contrast to what the panels describe and, for this reason, many will not take their personal visitors to this site.

NON-PERSONAL INTERPRETATION

SITKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Sitka Historical Museum's diorama, which museum staff members use to tell the story of Sitka including the battles of 1802 and 1804, is one of the museum's most popular interpretive displays. The museum also has an extensive collection of Tlingit bread baskets and other spruce root baskets, as well as Russian documents, artifacts, and reports pertaining to all stages of Sitka's history, including Old Sitka's period of significance. Serving the community year round, the museum also distributes a walking tour map that guides visitors to Sitka's National Historic Landmarks and other key attractions.

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

There are nine spots for interpretive panels in the interpretive open area— the area designated a National Historic Landmark; three panels are currently missing. Two of the unoccupied spots have been used for bulletin boards.

The six existing panels were designed and fabricated via the silk screening process, a technology that has not been used by the division since the early 1990s. The panels are in overall poor condition, with watermarks, scratches, and holes prevalent. The information presented on the displays does not tell the site's complete story and is considered offensive to the Sitka Native community.

The following list provides a brief description of the existing interpretive panels:

1. *Soft Gold* describes the development of international trade from the 15th through the 19th centuries, the discovery of sea otter pelts and their high value in Chinese markets, and trade routes.
2. *Russians Arrive* describes the how, when, and why the Russians arrived in Sitka and what they intended to accomplish in Russian America.
3. *Sitka* gives visitors a snapshot of Sitka history viewed through the lens of Russians claiming ownership of Sitka and identifying their primary interest in the area.

4. *Face to Face* touches on the somewhat hostile convergence of Russians, Aleut, and Tlingit in the hunt and trade of sea otter.
5. *Redoubt Life* explores the lifestyle of the Russians and Aleuts stationed at Redoubt St. Michael, including Aleut hunters keeping the settlement alive, and settlers trading with the local Tlingit people who began to resent the Russian attempts to control area trade.
6. *Clash of Cultures* describes the battle of 1802 between the Tlingit and the Redoubt settlers, explores the cultural differences that could have led to the battle, and tells visitors about the battle's outcomes.

SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETIVE TOUR BROCHURE

An excellent self-guided interpretive tour brochure, developed in partnership by the division and the U.S. Forest Service, explores the muskeg ecosystem and discusses the forest vegetation along Old Sitka's Forest and Muskeg Trail and the Estuary Life Trail; the Estuary Life Trail is part of the Starrigavan Recreation Area in the Tongass National Forest. The brochure includes a map of the trail systems, describes the trails and their level of difficulty, and identifies points of interest such as restrooms, viewing decks, and parking areas.

7. STAFFING

Old Sitka SHP is one of 42 state park units within the Southeast area of the Alaska State Park system, which covers the Alaska panhandle. There are eight Sitka area park units, including Old Sitka SHP. A Park Specialist manages these park units with the help of an Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC) employee and volunteers; this limited staffing structure makes it difficult to provide personal contact with visitors. However, of the eight units, two are more likely to have a greater personal presence—Halibut Point State Recreation Site (SRS) and Old Sitka SHP. The Sitka state parks' office is located at Halibut Point SRS, and the Salmon House at Old Sitka SHP houses volunteers intermittently.

The staff housing in the Salmon House is a potential point of contention, as the employee residing there may not be fully able to abandon his park duties at the end of the day. Visitors view this employee as a representative of Alaska State Parks whether he or she is "on the clock" or "off the clock." The employee is so compelled to always act in a professional manner while on site, even though the division does not ask staff members or volunteers to work more than eight hours a day. The house itself and the surrounding area is public property, but since the house is used as living quarters for staff and volunteers, visitors are not permitted access inside the house. Visitors are not encouraged to use this part of the park due to the proximity of it to the Salmon House and maintenance equipment.

CHAPTER 5: PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION STRATEGIES

The following strategies for preservation and interpretation of Old Sitka State Historical Park (SHP) will assist managers in meeting the plan's stated goals and objectives.

1. LAND USE ZONES

A critical strategy for achieving the plan's goals and objectives is the development and implementation of preservation zones. The establishment of preservation zones is intended to further a greater understanding of the resources and provide clear guidance for the interpretation and preservation treatments of historic resources.

PRESERVATION ZONES

Preservation zones enable managers to better facilitate continued preservation, development, program expansion, visitor growth, and general enjoyment of Old Sitka SHP. If land-use designations are established at a future date as part of a management planning process, the preservation zones will be supplementary and will not supersede the land-use designations. In the absence of a management plan, park staff, design professionals, park management, and the public should closely follow the building- and area-specific recommendations related to historic preservation and interpretation associated with the preservation zones.

Short
Range
Priority

Only two preservation zones are pertinent to Old Sitka SHP—Zone One and Zone Four. Each zone has a unique preservation objective related to the buildings, landscape, archaeology, and interpretation. These objectives should be used to guide decisions in each zone, while making sure to meet the preservation and interpretation objectives of this plan (see Figure 1).

PRESERVATION ZONE ONE

Preservation Zone One at Old Sitka is anchored by the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark. The area includes the parking lot, picnic area, beach, and interpretative area. The views from the existing interpretive area to the mountains and ocean must be restored and protected. The overall goal for this area is to enhance the visitor experience through restoration of the historic viewshed.

The primary preservation treatment in Preservation Zone One is restoration. Cultural assets in this zone represent important historical functionality of the historic resource, are critical to the visitor experience and understanding of the resource, embody distinctive qualities (such as unique materials, features, details, or craftsmanship), or achieve additional significance due to associations with important people, styles of architecture or events. All resources in Preservation Zone One should be maintained, preserved, and protected as the highest priority. Work that takes place in Zone One should follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration* and use the period of 1802 to guide decisions.¹³ The overall definition of restoration is “the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other

¹³ Citation

periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.”¹⁴ The Restoration Standards are attached in Appendix B.

PRESERVATION ZONE FOUR

The area outside the National Historic Landmark is classified as *Preservation Zone Four*. Areas inside Zone Four include the Forest & Muskeg Trail, boat launch area, and wooded areas across the Halibut Point Road. Although renovation in this area is appropriate, preservation of all documented historic properties is a priority. Proper siting of new features is of utmost importance to preserve what exists while making accommodations to keep the area useable. This zone can accommodate new facilities that are larger in scale although the views from Old Sitka should not be interrupted.

The primary treatment in Preservation Zone Four areas is renovation. Preservation Zone Four consists of those areas where changes will not sufficiently diminish the historic character of the property as a whole. Modification, renovation, and intrusion are acceptable. However, additions must still be sympathetic to the historic nature of the park. Preservation Zone Four areas can accommodate more changes than other designated zones. Zone Four areas are often undistinguished or repetitive in nature unless they represent a part of a larger ensemble of features, or are closely associated with other more significant site features.

2. RESEARCH

Systematic research will further guide resource management decisions, create better interpretive possibilities, more accurately depict historic resources, and provide a framework to conduct archaeological investigations.

SURVEY

An archaeological survey including sub-surface testing should be conducted in the area east of Halibut Point Road. Disturbed burials, possibly located in this area, were reported in the late 1800’s.¹⁵ Particular attention should be paid to the point just east of the National Historic Landmark and the dryer forested areas overlooking Starrigavan Bay and the Starrigavan River Valley. This survey may discover intact Russian or Tlingit cultural deposits not destroyed by 20th century construction, as well as identify areas of archaeological interest that may require more sensitive management. This survey may include public involvement as part of a public archaeology program.

The tidally isolated “island” may contain undisturbed cultural materials. Subsurface testing should be considered for this location, possibly as part of another survey and testing program.

One of the major unknowns about Old Sitka is how much of the site has been disturbed by 20th century excavation and filling. It is possible that ground penetrating radar or other remote sensing technology might be able to determine what ground has been disturbed and what areas hold the possibility of

Short-Mid
Range
Priority

¹⁴ Citation

¹⁵ Robert Betts, National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form: Old Sitka, (National Park Service, 2004), 8.

undisturbed cultural deposits. The division should encourage this procedure in the future if the opportunity arises.

CONFERENCES

Division personnel involved in research at Old Sitka SHP should consider participating in historical conferences, particularly those dealing with Russian America, Russian colonization, colonial battlefields, etc. This would provide the opportunity to emphasize research conducted at Old Sitka SHP, and to highlight the site as part of a regional tour or for actual on-site archaeological testing.

*Mid
Range
Priority*

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

The division will promote and support public archaeology as a means of educating the public about the history of Old Sitka SHP and the value of archaeological research. Public archaeology programs should, when feasible, be structured to involve members of the community in surveying, mapping, and excavating, with all activities resulting in reports filed with ADPOR. Involvement by local agencies and archaeologists should be encouraged when planning any archaeological excavations.

*Mid
Range
Priority*

3. PARTNERSHIPS

Documented and informal partnerships would benefit programs and maintenance activities at Old Sitka. A degree of formalization is necessary so relationships between entities are known when people or priorities change in organizations.

EDUCATION PARTNERS

Educational partners can assist in expanding programming, increasing educational opportunities, and nurturing research activities year round. Potential education partners include:

- ♦ Alaska Pacific University
- ♦ Alaska Private & Home Educators Association
- ♦ Mount Edgecombe High School
- ♦ National Park Service, Sitka National Historical Park
- ♦ Sheldon Jackson Museum
- ♦ Sitka School District
- ♦ U.S. Forest Service
- ♦ University of Alaska Southeast

*Mid
Range
Priority*

PROMOTIONAL OUTREACH PARTNERS

Partnerships specifically formed in an effort to promote the park and its historical resources are encouraged. Potential partners include tourist organizations, local government, and media. In addition to marketing at the local level, the division should look to potential statewide and national audiences. Potential promotional partners include:

*Short
Range
Priority*

- Alaska Cruise Association
- Alaska Travel Industry Association
- Sitka Chamber of Commerce
- Sitka Convention and Visitor's Bureau
- Sitka Historical Society
- Sitka Tribe

MAINTENANCE PARTNERS

ADPOR will attempt to expand and develop maintenance partnerships with organizations, institutions, and agencies. Partnerships will help ADPOR present a better product to park users and build the feeling of ownership in the community. Potential maintenance partners could include, but are not limited to the following:

*Short
Range
Priority*

- Sitka Historical Society
- Sitka Tribe
- Commercial entities

RESEARCH PARTNERS

Research partners could help increase knowledge and survey and analysis funding opportunities for the park. Potential partners include agencies, institutions, organizations, and private researchers, including:

*Mid
Range
Priority*

- Alaska Pacific University
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service, Sitka National Historical Park
- Sitka Historical Society
- Sitka Tribe
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Private Researcher

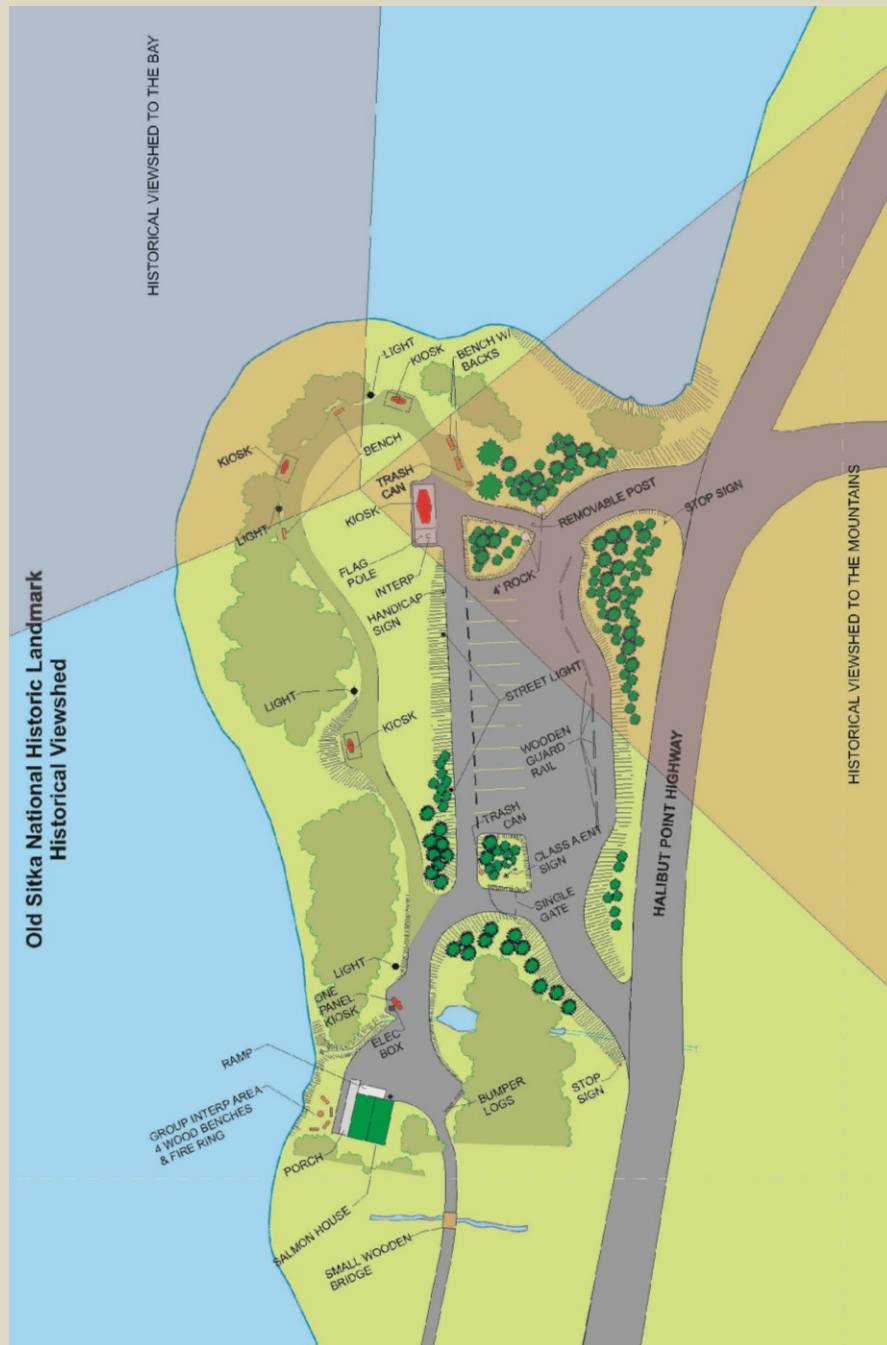


Figure 2: Old Sitka National Historic Landmark Historical Viewshed

4. MAINTENANCE

VEGETATION CONTROL

Vegetation has the potential to impact the visitor experience, the historic views and vistas, structural integrity of the Salmon House, and the integrity of archaeological features at Old Sitka; thus, a vegetation control plan should be implemented. Historic views to the ocean and mountains are significant to understanding the battles that took place at the site. The primary viewshed areas are depicted in **Figure 2**. Salmonberry in the primary viewshed must be removed or maintained in a way that re-establishes the historic relationship between the land and water to understand how Tlingit boats approached the Russian redoubt. Large trees that do not impede the visual relationship can remain to sustain the park's natural character and combat soil erosion.

*Short
Range
Priority*

SITE MAINTENANCE

Old Sitka should be clear from refuse at all times. Staff should routinely empty garbage cans and ensure the site is refuse free. Bear proof containers are appropriate for this location due to the high frequency of bears and to avoid fostering problematic bear behavior. Personal belongings of staff members must be stored out of public view near the Salmon House to preserve its historic character and ensure visitors feel welcomed at the park facility. Maintenance equipment should be stored in the shed behind the Salmon House. Staff vehicles should be parked at the boat launch parking lot.

*Short
Range
Priority*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE MONITORING

The beach and stream bank should be surveyed every spring by park personnel for collection and curation of artifacts that may have eroded out of the bank during the winter. The beach, intertidal area, and riverbanks should be monitored for Russian, Tlingit and Aleut artifacts; if any such artifacts are located, GPS coordinates should be taken on the stakes, and one should be recovered for dating (see Appendix C for Old Sitka State Historical Park Archaeological Monitoring Form).

*Short
Range
Priority*

CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Any rehabilitation or restoration of a historic property should start with a complete condition assessment. Condition assessments must be completed prior to commencement of work on any building or site and reconsidered every five years. A completed condition assessment will provide adequate information to prioritize work on specific resources and the urgency of the repairs. Thorough digital photo documentation must accompany all reports. Photos should be taken that capture each elevation, significant preservation issues, significant features and the setting. A standard condition assessment inventory form is included in Appendix D. Condition assessments should be completed for all resources at Old Sitka SHP.

*Short
Range
Priority*

SALMON HOUSE

The Salmon House should be considered as a primary contact opportunity for Alaska State Parks in Sitka. The house should be appropriately maintained and serviced to represent the division to the public. The grounds should be maintained and used for visitor services such as picnicking and visitor contact station.

The *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties* must be followed when improvements and maintenance are conducted at the Salmon House. General maintenance that must be conducted at the Salmon House includes removing organic growth, painting, gutter repair cleaning, and pest control.

Mid
Range
Priority

Other substantial changes should be made to the Salmon House to preserve its historic integrity, such as providing appropriate separation between the shed and the Salmon House. The bathroom addition should be fit with a roofline that reflects the historic building's character. Cladding that closely resembles the Salmon House should be installed on the bathroom addition. Tanks should be visually separated from the house, or appropriately screened with vegetation or structures.

Long
Range
Priority

5. LAND USE

PARKING LOTS

Two of the three parking areas at Old Sitka are appropriately placed. However, changes to the parking area located in the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark need to occur to better manage the resource. Ideally, the parking area should be removed from the National Historic Landmark to restore the visual characteristics, and improve the site's historic integrity and a sense of reverence.

Long
Range
Priority

If the need for this parking area is demonstrated, screening should be considered while preserving the visual relationship to the mountains. One option could include a gently tapered berm with low-growing vegetation to block the view of parked cars, while still allowing an uninterrupted view of the mountains. Some parking spaces may be lost to accommodate such a screening element. ***Drawing to be included.***

TRAILS

Old Sitka SHP has two maintained trails, a boat launch access trail and a forest trail (Forest and Muskeg Trail). To better facilitate visitor access from the boat launch parking lot to the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark, the trail should be adequately identified and signed.

Mid
Range
Priority

PICNIC AREAS

All picnic areas should be located outside the primary viewshed areas and not on the beach. There are a number of wooded areas that could accommodate secluded individual picnic sites, in addition to a site near the Salmon House. These appropriately placed sites will sustain the primary viewshed area, interpretation, and sense of reverence desired.

Mid
Range
Priority

EROSION CONTROL

Erosion control must be based on sound evidence. To gain this evidence, erosion datums (steel rebar with aluminum caps) should be put in place as reference points for annual monitoring. Datums, at a minimum, should be marked with "Erosion Datum," the year, and distance to the edge of the eroded soil face. Yearly erosion monitoring should take place to assess the amount of annual loss. Depending on the severity of the erosion, measures should be taken to ensure stabilization of the Old Sitka National Historic Landmark. Any erosion control measures taken must be sensitive to the natural landscape and nature of the resource. Measures must appear to be natural.

Long
Range
Priority

MEMORIALS

Mid
Range
Priority

The proposal of new memorials is common at battlefield sites. Proposals for new memorials must go through appropriate permitting which may include, but is not limited to acquiring a special use permit from the Southeast Area Alaska State Parks' superintendent.

New memorials must be kept to a minimum to preserve and protect the visual integrity of the site. All memorials must relate to the battle that took place at Old Sitka. Memorials to individuals are not appropriate for this site. New memorials need to be accompanied by an appropriately funded endowment for future maintenance of the memorial.

Ultimately, the chief of the Office of History and Archaeology, the Southeast Area Alaska State Parks' superintendent, and the director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation must agree to the placement of any new memorial and any one of them has the authority to turn down the request for a new memorial.

6. INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is meant to enhance a visitor's experience by revealing what makes the site or resource special, and is a valuable management tool. Interpretation at Old Sitka will not only tell visitors what is interesting about the site but also aim to convince them of its value, encourage preservation, and instill a sense of community ownership in the park.

The following section outlines interpretive themes and the division's recommendations for personal and non-personal interpretation.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

THEMES are the primary messages visitors should understand about a particular interpretive site or presentation. Themes bring a sense of continuity to a site and assist planners when organizing the content for interpretive materials. Each interpretive product developed will support the primary interpretive theme and one of the subthemes listed below.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME:

Old Sitka, or Gajaa Heen, is the site of a battle that was fought between Russians and Tlingit and was a defining event in the history of Sitka and Alaska. Visitors to Old Sitka State Historical Park are presented with a unique educational opportunity enhanced by the site's historical importance, historical features, and natural setting.

SUBTHEMES:

1. The Tlingit inhabited Southeast Alaska and flourished there for thousands of years; they used the site called *Gajaa Héen*, now Old Sitka, as a fish drying camp before the Russians arrived.
 - a. The Sitka Tlingit took fish from the ocean and from the stream that is now called Starrigavan and dried them here for winter use.
2. The Russian-American Company held a monopoly over the northeast area of the Pacific Ocean for hunting and trading when the fur trade proved to be highly lucrative.

- a. The Shelikhov-Golikov Company was one of the most powerful Russian fur trade companies and it later became the government sponsored Russian-American Company under Shelikhov.
 - b. Baranof, the first Chief Manager of the Russian-American Company, set out to accomplish the difficult task of establishing permanent trading posts along the North American Pacific coast.
3. The Aleuts inhabited the Aleutian Islands where they had developed sea kayaks that they used to with skill to hunt and fish in the ocean.
 - a. The Aleuts were the first group of people the Russians encountered in Alaska and played a key role in the Russians' success in Alaska.
 - b. The Russians used both friendly and hostile tactics to ensure that the Aleuts would hunt for them.
 - c. Aleut hunters and a few Aleut women accompanied the Russians to Sitka and helped them establish Redoubt St. Michael.
4. In 1799, Baranof established a trading post near present-day Sitka in order to tap into an abundance of sea otters; the resulting settlement was Redoubt St. Michael.
 - a. Tlingit leaders gave Baranof and the Russians permission to build a fort and establish a trading post at *Gajaa Héen* in exchange for trading goods and, for a period, both Tlingit and Russians strove to maintain a harmonious existence.
 - b. Baranof returned to Kodiak in the spring of 1800 and left Medvednikov in charge of Redoubt St. Michael with strict orders to maintain peaceful relations with the local Tlingit and to be careful not to give motive for quarrel.
5. A few Russians acted with disregard to their superiors' orders and insulted the Tlingit, fueling growing distrust and resentment. Other Tlingit clans taunted the Sitka Tlingit about being under Russian rule, which also added to the growing discontent of the Tlingit.
 - a. The leaders of the local Tlingit became weary of the newcomers and began secretly preparing for war while maintaining a friendly appearance.
 - b. A helmet, or war bonnet, resembling a raven was made by the southern people—the *Kiks.ádi's* grandparents—and sent to the *Kiks.ádi* of Sitka in show of support for war.
6. In mid-June 1802¹⁶, the Tlingit assailed the fort at noon in a two-pronged attack, one group attacking the fort from the ocean and another from the forest behind the fort.
 - a. The settlers of Redoubt St. Michael, both Russian and Aleut, were taken by surprise by the Tlingit attack; the Tlingit had given the Russians no indication that they were no longer on peaceful terms.

¹⁶ Ibid., 176, 183.

- b. According to Tlingit oral tradition, the first person to die in this battle was the Russian blacksmith. The Tlingit warrior, Katlean, took the blacksmith's hammer and used it as his primary weapon in the battle.
 - c. The Tlingit burned the two-story barracks to the ground and killed the settlers of Redoubt St. Michael that could not escape.
- 7. A few Russians and Aleuts managed to escape during the Tlingit attack, but most survivors were outside the fort fishing or hunting when the attack occurred, or were taken captive to become slaves to the Tlingit.
 - a. Captain Barber negotiated with the Tlingit for the survivors held captive after a Russian and some Aleut women that had escaped made contact with his ship.
 - b. Captain Barber returned the survivors to Baranov at Kodiak in exchange for additional sea otter pelts.
- 8. The Tlingit attack on Redoubt St. Michael infuriated Baranov and he prepared to counterattack and rebuild the fort.
 - a. In 1804, Baranov returned for battle and after a 6-day siege, the Tlingit surrendered because they ran out of ammunition. They left quietly during the night on a self-imposed exile.¹⁷
 - b. A new Russian trading post was established at present-day Sitka and it was named New Archangel.
 - c. The Russian-American Company built their new fort on Castle Hill that became the new headquarters for the Russian-American Company. Sitka became the capital of Russian Alaska soon after.

PERSONAL INTERPRETATION

Personal interpretation occurs when one person is interpreting to another. Authors Lisa Brochu and Tim Merriam provide an excellent summation of personal interpretation in their book, "Personal Interpretation: connecting your audience to heritage resources":

"Personal interpretation is one of the most powerful approaches to interpretation because the interpreter can continually adapt to each audience. If you are practicing personal interpretation, the opportunities for you to make emotional and intellectual connections are numerous, because you can learn about the guest and apply what you learn to enhance her or his experience. However, personal interpretive services are usually available for a limited amount of time each day and perform variably, depending upon the skill of the interpreter and how she or he feels at any given time. And personal

¹⁷ Lisianskii 1812, in Dauenhauer et al. 2008, pp.231-233

interpretation is usually more expensive than nonpersonal approaches, when one considers the cost per visitor contact.”¹⁸

SITKA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Sitka Historical Museum plays a central role in personal interpretation related to the events that took place at Old Sitka. The division recommends working with the Sitka Historical Museum to develop—using the interpretive themes described herein—a personal interpretation guide (described below) to assist museum volunteers in sharing Old Sitka’s stories with visitors. Training for museum volunteers at the beginning of each season in interpretive techniques and the park’s interpretive themes would enhance the overall visitor experience.

Short
Range
Priority

PERSONAL INTERPRETATION GUIDE

A small guide to interpreting Old Sitka, in booklet format, would assist tour guides, volunteers, and park employees when sharing the history of Old Sitka with visitors, school groups, etc. The guide would provide direction for personal interpretation of Old Sitka and its role in Alaska’s history to ensure that the park’s major theme and subthemes are adequately and effectively presented to the interested public. The guide would briefly develop each of the subthemes and provide examples and suggestions for creating an interesting and effective interpretive experience for park visitors.

Mid
Range
Priority

NON-PERSONAL INTERPRETATION

Non-personal interpretation occurs when the person interpreting is removed and replaced with another type of media, such as an interpretive display, audio tour, or self-guided brochure. At Old Sitka, non-personal interpretation will enhance visitors’ experiences when they are visiting the park independent of a tour, when the Sitka Historical Society and Museum is closed, or outside scheduled times for oral presentations, either at the park or the museum. Non-personal interpretation presents a consistent story and message and is not susceptible to a guide’s skill or feelings on any particular day, as described in the “Personal Interpretation” section.

The following descriptions present recommendations for the following types of projects: on-site displays, a self-guided walking brochure, podcasts, and cell phone interpretation.

ON-SITE INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS

On-site, static interpretation will be the primary media for interpretation in the park. The following project descriptions are both site and topic specific. **Note:** The project numbers do not correspond with implementation priority.

Project #1: Interpretive Shelter.....National Historic Landmark Area

Project #2: Type D Interpretive Panels..... National Historic Landmark Area

Project #3: Historical Feature Panel.....Salmon House

¹⁸Brochu, *Personal Interpretation: connecting your audience to heritage resources*, 23.

Project #1: Interpretive Shelter—Interpretive Open Area (National Historic Landmark)

The interpretive shelter, located in the open area, the National Historic Landmark) near the parking area, would present—through static interpretive exhibits—the park’s historical context and the background for the battle of 1802. The recommended facility would be a covered shelter with an estimated four, Type-D interpretive displays. Three of these would introduce the visitor to the distinct parties involved in the battle of 1802 and provide the background for the battle of 1802. One panel would orient the visitor to the site and provide information on the park’s highlights. The panels should have identifiable, thematic graphic elements.

Short
Range
Priority

Project #2: Type D Interpretive Panels—Interpretive Open Area (National Historic Landmark)

Three Type D panels are recommended along the outer edge of the interpretive open area where visitors can read the panel and look out over the bay—the positioning would provide visitors a sense of place and enable them to envision what the site was like in 1802. These panels will interpret the battle itself, the events that lead to the battle, and the story of the survivors. They may also depict Redoubt St. Michael to allow visitors the chance to imagine what is left of the original site as it was that fateful day.

Short
Range
Priority

Project #3: Historical Feature Panel—Salmon House

It is recommended that a panel be installed near the building that is known as the Salmon House, or the Russian Tea House, to interpret its historical significance, which is not related to the rest of the site, and its importance to the people of Sitka, who saved it from being destroyed and asked that it be placed in the park for safekeeping.

Long
Range
Priority

SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETIVE TOUR BROCHURE

The existing self-guided walking brochure developed by the division and the U.S. Forest Service, was developed in 1995 and is still adequate. However, this brochure could be made available in other languages such as Japanese, Russian, German, French, Spanish, and Tlingit to broaden the accessibility of the park’s interpretive materials to a greater percentage of the park visitors.

Mid
Range
Priority

Self-guided tours enable visitors to explore the park at their leisure, either in groups or alone, and give visitors access to interpretive material about the natural and cultural resources in the park. These interpretive materials can also address accessibility issues by providing interpretation in audio format for those that are visually impaired or can’t read, as well as interpretation in other languages for park visitors of different nationalities. Possibilities for self-guided tours, in addition to the interpretive self-guided tour brochure, include cell phone interpretation and podcasts. The current markers are in good overall condition and the division recommends that these also be used as markers for cell phone interpretation and podcasts.

OLD SITKA STATE HISTORICAL PARK BROCHURE

A brochure for Old Sitka State Historical Park would highlight the park’s historical background and include orientation information. The brochure should be designed to match Alaska State Parks’ standard design, thus creating a product that is easily identifiable. Standard graphic elements such as font choice, border treatment, and the order in which information is displayed tie all Alaska State Park brochures together.

Short
Range
Priority

The map portion of the brochure would show the layout of the park and the location of park features such as the Forest and Muskeg Trail, the National Historic Landmark, the Salmon House, picnic areas, parking areas, and toilets. The brochure would be available for download from the division website and be distributed at various locations in Sitka.

SITKA AREA PARK BROCHURE

A brochure introducing all eight of Sitka's state park units would provide information on each unit's purpose, highlights, and opportunities. Elements in the formatting and layout would be designed to match Alaska State Parks' standard design, thus creating a product that is easily identifiable.

*Mid
Range
Priority*

SITKA AREA HISTORIC SITES OR NHL BROCHURE

The division recommends partnering with other parties that are interested in preserving Sitka's history such as the Sitka Historical Society, National Park Service, and the City and Borough of Sitka to create an interpretive brochure that focuses on Sitka's historical sites or NHLs, including those that are part of the Alaska state park system. If another agency or interested party begins to work on a similar project, the division recommends encouraging and supporting the effort.

*Mid
Range
Priority*

PODCASTS

Podcasts are digital recordings made available for downloading to a personal computer, iPod, MP3 player, or other personal audio devices. It is recommended that podcasts be made available on Old Sitka SHP's state website for visitors to download onto their personal audio devices. Recommended topics for podcasts include an audio version of the self-guided tour brochure, and audio versions of interpretive panels. Additional stories pertaining to the site could also be interpreted for park visitors in this manner. It is recommended that podcasts be made available in multiple languages.

*Mid-Long
Range
Priority*

CELL PHONE INTERPRETATION

Cell phone interpretation could be a valuable tool to enhance accessibility of the park's interpretive programs. Further research into the applicability and practicality of this mode of interpretation in Old Sitka is recommended. Cell phone coverage throughout the park, public opinion, demographics, and cost are some factors that must be considered.

*Long
Range
Priority*

7. PARK STAFF

The division recommends that a staff person or a combination of staff persons that meet the criteria listed below be employed to meet the needs particular to Old Sitka SHP.

Desired qualifications:

- Ability to effectively communicate interpretive messages about the park's archaeological, cultural, and natural resources to visitors
- Understanding of preservation strategies for historic landscapes or battlefields
- Law enforcement capabilities to enhance visitor safety and deter vandalism
- Understanding of the cultural and historical significance of this park
- Knowledge of the story of Old Sitka, especially the story of the Battle of 1802
- Basic knowledge of the area's wildlife and ecology

The division recommends that staff members responsible for overseeing and managing this park perform duties such as the following as needed:

- Regularly thin out and cut back vegetation along the trails and in the National Historic Landmark Area
- Ensure that all applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations are followed within the park
- Address safety hazards as needed
- Enhance the visitor experience with personal interpretation

INTERNSHIPS AND ALASKA CONSERVATION CORPS

The division recommends offering internships or Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC) positions to high school and college students. The interns or ACCs could carry out general maintenance activities, conduct research on Old Sitka history and archaeology and preservation technologies, conduct interpretive tours, and provide personal interpretation to park visitors depending on the intern or ACC's interests, abilities, and field of study. Offering internships or ACC positions to Alaskan students provides the division with an opportunity to help further the education of Alaskan youth and provide them with work experience. The hired students would, in turn, help the division provide improved services to the public.

*Short
Range
Priority*

VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARK

The division recommends the continued use of volunteers in the park to assist park staff in certain park projects. Park staff should identify volunteer opportunities and conduct outreach programs in the community to fill volunteer needs. Volunteer opportunities could include trail maintenance, vegetation control, personal interpretation, and visitor contact. To have an effective volunteer program, all volunteers must be trained and appropriately supervised.

*Short
Range
Priority*

The Alaska State Parks staff members are the key to a successful park system. With adequate staffing, the successful management of public lands such as Old Sitka SHP becomes an easier task and allows for more and better services to park visitors. When set to the highest standard, successful management of state historical parks would include a higher level of interpretation and active preservation. The following recommendations are meant to provide guidance to help Old Sitka SHP achieve the highest standard of successful park management as Alaska State Parks continues to strive towards excellence.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Park staff should be easily identifiable so that visitors know who to go to for help or with questions. The presence of uniformed staff members in state parks also helps visitors feel safer and stay on their best behavior. In addition, the uniforms help maintain a professional image of Alaska State Parks and promote a greater level of confidence in Parks staff.

Park staff members and volunteers also should set a good example for responsible behavior and good stewardship of Park resources. This is especially true of staff residing within state parks. Having the Salmon House occupied by park staff provides an opportunity for the park employee to better assist visitors during regular operating hours. However, park employees living in the Salmon House at Old Sitka should take care to represent the division in a professional manner even after business

hours by abiding by local and state regulations and guidelines such as not feeding wildlife, respecting fishing restrictions, and not possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages in Old Sitka SHP and other state historical parks and sites (11 AAC 20.905.)

Park employees and volunteers should always be ready to answer questions for visitors, help them, and provide impromptu interpretation about park resources or stories pertaining to the park during regular work hours. They should also be willing and ready to help visitors recreate safely which may include teaching safety techniques, encouraging enjoyment of the park's natural and historic resources and the recreational use of the park where appropriate. Above all, Park employees and volunteers should remember that they represent Alaska State Parks and so, they should support the mission and vision of Alaska State Parks with their presence and their actions.

CHAPTER 6: PLAN EVALUATION

The effectiveness of the plan should be evaluated by the resulting quality of the visitor experience and resource protection, not the number of recommendations completed. The plan should be re-evaluated every five years and updated as necessary.

This plan reflects the best efforts of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to analyze the resources of the park and to provide recreational and interpretive opportunities that enhance the park's historical, cultural, archaeological or anthropological values for which the park was established and the visitor experience. This plan is expected to remain relevant to the park's management for approximately 20 years; however, intermediate reviews and appropriate modifications are expected and encouraged. The director may initiate a review at any time and it is strongly recommended that the plan be reviewed via a public process at least every 10 years.